

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-10
IO-13 OIC-02 SIL-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08
FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00
PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /133 W
-----099316 271835Z /42

O 271712Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1064

ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, ETRD, GATT

SUBJ: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JULY 25-26, 1977:

TEXTILES

REF: (A) GENEVA 6215 (NOTAL); (B) BRUSSELS 8154

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1. SUMMARY:

THE JULY 25-26 EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL WAS THE
SCENE OF BRIEF BUT POINTED DISCUSSION BETWEEN FRENCH
AND EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS OVER RENEWAL OF THE MULTI-
FIBER AGREEMENT. ON A SEPARATE BUT RELATED TEXTILE
ISSUE, THE COUNCIL AGREED ON A COMMUNITY REGULATION

DESIGNED TO SUPPLANT THE RECENT UNILATERAL MEASURES
ON TEXTILE IMPORTS TAKEN BY FRANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA RENEWAL:

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD MADE A STATEMENT
TO THE COUNCIL CONCERNING THE JULY 24 GATT TEXTILES
COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF MFA RENEWAL (REFTEL A). FOL-
LOWING IS INFORMAL MISSION TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS:

3. "I WILL NOT SPLIT HAIRS ON WHAT TOOK PLACE IN
GENEVA. EVERYONE IS AWARE OF THE CONDITIONS UNDER
WHICH THE FRENCH DELEGATION FELT CONSTRAINED TO INTER-
VENE, AFTER HAVING TRIED TO DISSUADE THE COMMISSION
FROM ADHERING IN THE NAME OF THE COMMUNITY TO A TEXT
WHICH VERY CLEARLY DEVIATED FROM THE COUNCIL'S
DIRECTIVES.

4. IF YOU WANT, I COULD SHOW HOW THE AMERICAN DRAFT
RAN COUNTER TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS, SUCH AS THEY WERE
EXPRESSED AT THE MARCH 8 AND JUNE 21 COUNCILS. BUT
THIS ASPECT OF THINGS SEEMS TO ME TODAY OVERTAKEN,
SINCE THE GATT DIRECTOR, IN HIS WISDOM, HAS DECLARED
THAT THE CONDITIONS FOR AN AGREEMENT WERE NOT PRESENT
AND THAT THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS FOR RENEWAL OF THE MFA
WITHOUT CHANGE.
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5. ON THE OTHER HAND, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I
CANNOT CONSIDER CLOSED THE DIFFERENCE WHICH SET US IN
OPPOSITION TO THE COMMISSION DURING THAT LAST DAY. I
STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY (THE COMMISSION) DID NOT,
AS IT MIGHT HAVE, CONSIDER IT OPPORTUNE TO CALL FOR
CONTINUATION OF THE GENEVA MEETING UNTIL WE HAD TODAY,
AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, DEFINED IN COMMON A SUITABLE
POSITION.

6. FRANCE REMAINS IN FAVOR OF RENEWAL OF THE TEXTILE
AGREEMENT. BUT NOT AT ANY PRICE. THAT IS ALSO THE
POSITION OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY. (THE COMMUNITY) HAS
SAID SO AND I DO NOT SEE WHY IT COULD NOT HAVE SAID
SO AGAIN. WE ARE NO LONGER IN 1973. WE ARE GOING
THROUGH A CRISIS WHERE WE HAVE TO DEFEND OUR INTERESTS
WITHOUT TRIVIALITY BUT DOUBTLESS WITH MORE FRANKNESS
THAN IN THE PAST. WE CAN NO LONGER ALLOW DRAFTING
COMPROMISES WHICH MASK DISAGREEMENT BUT ALSO SET THE
STAGE FOR MORE DIFFICULT DAYS FOR OUR NEGOTIATORS.
IT IS BY SHOWING AN EXCESS OF FLEXIBILITY TODAY THAT
WE BRING ON A RISE IN PROTECTIONISM TOMORROW." END

TEXT OF STATEMENT.

7. ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION SPOKESMAN, COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT WILHELM HAFERKAMP REFUTED DE GUIRINGAUD'S STATEMENT, ASSERTING THAT THE COMMISSION HAD REGULARLY INFORMED THE COUNCIL, THE 113 COMMITTEE, AND COREPER OF THE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE COMMISSION'S POSITION IN GENEVA WAS IN COMPLETE CONFORMITY WITH THE COUNCIL'S DIRECTIVES. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT HAFERKAMP CHARACTERIZED THE AGREED TEXT AS THE ONLY POSSIBLE BASIS FOR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND EMPHASIZED THAT, HAD THE COMMISSION NOT AGREED TO THE TEXT, IT WOULD HAVE HAD NOTHING TO BACK UP BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, HAFERKAMP'S DEFENSE PROMPTED DEGUIRINGAUD TO EXPRESS HOPE THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMISSION WOULD RESPECT THE INTERESTS OF ALL MEMBER STATES DURING BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

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PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /133 W
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O 271712Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1065

ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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USEEC

8. EC COMMISSIONER ETIENNE DAVIGNON TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE COUNCIL MEETING THAT, IN THE COMMISSION'S VIEW, MFA RENEWAL IS NOW SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION OF BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS. THE COMMISSION, HE SAID, WILL CONTINUE PURSUING BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND WILL REVIEW THE SITUATION IN NOVEMBER TO SEE IF MFA RENEWAL WOULD BE "WORTHWHILE." UK FOREIGN SECRETARY
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OWEN TOLD REPORTERS HE THOUGHT THE COUNCIL SHOULD REVIEW THE SITUATION SOMETIME IN THE AUTUMN.

9. TEXTILE IMPORTS:
THE COUNCIL AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL (REFTEL B) FOR A REGULATION IMPOSING QUOTAS ON FOUR TEXTILE PRODUCTS THROUGH THE SECOND HALF OF 1977. HOWEVER, THE COUNCIL SLIGHTLY REVISED THE FIGURES PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION, AND THE REGULATION HAS ACCORDINGLY BEEN RETURNED TO COREPER FOR TECHNICAL REVIEW. APPROVAL BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE IS EXPECTED LATER THIS WEEK. IN REMARKS TO REPORTERS, DAVIGNON WELCOMED THIS COMMUNITY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM CAUSED BY FRENCH UNILATERAL ACTION IN THIS SECTOR. ALTHOUGH HE DECLINED TO STATE FLATLY THAT THE FRENCH HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES THEY WOULD NOW WITHDRAW THEIR NATIONAL MEASURES, HE INDICATED HE EXPECTED THEY WOULD DO SO.
HINTON

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